

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ACDE-00
ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00
OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 /089 W
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R 011336Z JUL 77
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2244
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY ANKARA BY POUCH
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK BY POUCH

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0360

FROM US REP MBFR

USSALTTWO

BELGRADE ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM NATO
SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD JUNE 27-
JULY 3

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1. BEGIN SUMMARY: POLISH STATEMENT DELIVERED AT THE JUNE 30
PLENARY MEETING OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS INCLUDED
THE FIRST REFERENCE IN THAT FORUM TO THE POSSIBILITY OF FINDING
A COMPROMISE TO NATIONAL CEILINGS IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH THE
PROBLEM OF ENSURING FREEDOM TO MAINTAIN POST-REDUCTION FORCE
LEVELS. THE BULK OF THE POLISH PRESENTATION STRESSED THE
MERITS OF THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL, WHICH WAS ALSO THE CENTRAL

THEME OF THE PREPARED EASTERN STATEMENT AT THE POST-PLENARY PRESS BRIEFING. EASTERN REPS AT THE JUNE 28 INFORMAL SESSION AGAIN ATTACKED THE RELIABILITY OF WESTERN ESTIMATES OF WARSAW PACT MILITARY MANPOWER AND BLAMED THE WEST FOR THE UNSATISFACTORY RESULTS OF THE DATA DISCUSSION TO DATE. END SUMMARY

2. POLISH REP DABROWA MADE THE ONLY STATEMENT AT THE JUNE 30 PLENARY MEETING OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS. IT INCLUDED THE FIRST MENTION IN THAT FORUM OF THE POSSIBILITY OF FINDING A COMPROMISE TO NATIONAL CEILINGS IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM OF MAINTAINING OVERALL POST-REDUCTION FORCE LEVELS SHOULD ANY OF THE PARTIES DECIDE UNILATERALLY FURTHER TO REDUCE ITS FORCES IN THE REDUCTION AREA. (COMMENT: IN FACT, EASTERN REPS BILATERALLY HAVE MADE INTERMITTENT AND INCONCLUSIVE REFERENCES TO THE POSSIBILITY OF COMPROMISE ON THIS ISSUE. END COMMENT). POLISH REP WENT ON TO ADD THAT EASTERN PARTICIPANTS HAD SOME COMPROMISES IN MIND IN THIS REGARD, BUT PROVIDED NO SPECIFIC DETAILS.

3. DABROWA DEVOTED THE BULK OF HIS PLENARY PRESENTATION TO THE MERITS OF THE EASTERN PROPOSAL THAT DIRECT PARTICIPANTS UNDERTAKE AN IMMEDIATE COMMITMENT NOT TO INCREASE PERSONNEL STRENGTH OF THEIR ARMED FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE, AS SET FORTH IN OFFICIAL EASTERN AND WESTERN DATA, FOR THE DURATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE SAME THEME WAS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE OPENING STATEMENT OF THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN AT THE REGULAR POST-PLENARY PRESS BRIEFING.

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BOTH THE POLISH PLENARY TEXT AND THE SUBSEQUENT EASTERN PRESS STATEMENT MADE ELLIPTICAL REFERENCES TO THE FACT THAT THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS COULD NOT BE USED TO NULLIFY LIMITATIONS PLACED ON NATIONAL ARMAMENTS IN EUROPE UNDER THE TERMS OF PREVIOUS INTERNATIONAL TREATIES. WHEN PRESSED BY REPORTERS AT THE BRIEFING TO CLARIFY THE POINT, THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN GAVE AS AN EXAMPLE THE CONTROLS CONTAINED IN THE WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION AGREEMENTS.

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0360

FROM US REP MBFR

USSALTTWO

BELGRADE ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE

4. EASTERN REPS AT THE JUNE 28 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA
TALKS AGAIN BLAMED THE WEST FOR THE FAILURE TO DATE OF THE DATA
DISCUSSION TO ADVANCE THE NEGOTIATIONS GENERALLY OR TO
RECONCILE EAST-WEST DIFFERENCES OVER FIGURES SUBMITTED BY THE
EAST FOR WARSAW PACT MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE REDUCTION

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AREA. THEY FOUND IT INCOMPREHENSIBLE THAT WESTERN PARTICIPANTS
SHOULD BE UNWILLING TO TAKE THE LOGICAL NEXT STEP OF MOVING TO
CONSIDER THE CONSTITUENT NATIONAL ELEMENTS OF THE OVERALL EASTERN
AND WESTERN MANPOWER FIGURES ALREADY UNDER DISCUSSION. INSTEAD,
THEY SAID, USING VAGUELY WORDED FORMULATIONS RATHER THAN
PRECISE NUMBERS, WESTERN PARTICIPANTS PREFERRED TO CLING TO THEIR
ARTIFICIAL CONCEPT OF A SIGNIFICANT MANPOWER DISPARITY FAVORING
THE WARSAW PACT DESPITE OFFICIAL EASTERN DATA SHOWING THE
CONTRARY TO BE TRUE. EASTERN REPS SAID IT OCCURRED TO THEM THAT
THE WEST AVOIDED EXPRESSING ITS ESTIMATES OF WARSAW PACT
MANPOWER IN NUMERICAL TERMS SO AS TO RETAIN THE OPTION OF
REVISING THESE ESTIMATES AS NEEDED TO SUPPORT THE WESTERN THESIS
OF DISPARITIES INDEPENDENTLY OF THE COURSE OF THE DATA

DISCUSSION. EASTERN REPS STATED IT WAS THEIR FURTHER CONCLUSION THAT WESTERN PARTICIPANTS EITHER WERE UNCONVINCED OF THE ACCURACY OF THE METHOD USED TO ESTIMATE WARSAW PACT FORCES OR COULD PRODUCE NO CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT THE ESTIMATES WERE THEMSELVES RELIABLE. IN COMMENTING ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DATA ISSUE, WESTERN REPS SAID THEY COULD NOT ACCEPT THE EASTERN CONTENTION THAT, BECAUSE EASTERN DATA WAS CHARACTERIZED AS "OFFICIAL", IT WAS BY DEFINITION NOT SUBJECT TO WESTERN CHALLENGE. EASTERN AND WESTERN REPS EXCHANGED SOME ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CONCERNING THE DATA CURRENTLY ON THE TABLE.

5. DURING THE BALANCE OF THE SESSION, EASTERN REPS PUSHED FOR THE REDUCTION OF AIR FORCES. THEY REJECTED WESTERN CLAIMS THAT THE WARSAW PACT HAD MORE AIRCRAFT IN THE REDUCTION AREA THAN NATO, OBSERVING THAT, IF WESTERN PARTICIPANTS REALLY BELIEVED SUCH WAS THE CASE, THE WEST SHOULD LOGICALLY SEEK AIRCRAFT REDUCTIONS. WESTERN REPS REVIEWED THE REASONS WHY IT WAS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL PARTICIPANTS TO BEGIN NOW TO DISCUSS THE TOPIC OF ASSOCIATED MEASURES. RESOR

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